

ENTERED

December 02, 2019

David J. Bradley, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

LUIS MORALES-MELENDZ

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5:19-CR-1546

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Magistrate Court submits this Report and Recommendation to the District Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3). This case has been referred, by order of the District Court, to the United States Magistrate Judge for the taking of a felony guilty plea and the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 11 Allocution. All parties executed a waiver of the right to plead guilty before a United States District Judge as well as a consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge.

On December 2, 2019, the Defendant and counsel appeared before the Magistrate Judge, who addressed the Defendant personally in open court and informed the Defendant of the admonishments under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and determined that the Defendant was competent to plead guilty and fully understood said admonishments.

The Defendant pleaded guilty to counts one, two, three, four, and five (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) of the Indictment (violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), (v)(I), (v)(II) and (B)(iv)). **No plea agreement was entered. The Government stated that it will unilaterally dismiss counts six, seven, eight, and nine at sentencing, and that it is authorized not to seek the death penalty** (Dkt. No. 34). The Court explained that the District Judge is obligated to calculate the applicable sentencing guideline range under the Sentencing Guidelines promulgated by the United States Sentencing Commission and to consider that range in determining the

Defendant's sentence. *See* FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(1)(M). The Court also explained that the Defendant could receive a term of supervised release. The Court explained the range of punishment with regard to imprisonment, fines, restitution, supervised release, the statutory fee assessment, and, if non-indigent to the statutory assessment pursuant to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. The Court finally informed the Defendant that, if a person who is not a United States citizen is convicted of a crime, he or she may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future. *See* FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(1)(O).

The Magistrate Judge finds the following:

1. The Defendant, with the advice of counsel, has consented orally and in writing to enter this guilty plea before the Magistrate Judge, subject to final approval and sentencing by the District Judge;
2. The Defendant fully understands the nature of the charges and penalties;
3. The Defendant understands his/her Constitutional and statutory rights and wishes to waive these rights, including his/her right to appeal or collaterally attack his/her sentence (*see* FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(1)(N));
4. The Defendant's plea is made freely and voluntarily;
5. The Defendant is competent to enter this plea of guilty; and
6. There is an adequate factual basis for this plea.

Recommendation

The Magistrate Court **RECOMMENDS** that the District Court accept the plea of guilty and enter final judgment of guilt against the Defendant. **At the hearing, the parties stated that**

they had no objections. The District Court may therefore enter an order adopting this Report and Recommendation immediately, accept the guilty plea, and set the date for sentencing.

Warnings

The parties may file objections to this Report and Recommendation, unless they waive the right to do so. A party filing objections must specifically identify those findings or recommendations to which objections are being made. The District Court need not consider frivolous, conclusive, or general objections. *Battle v. U.S. Parole Comm'n*, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987) (quoting *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404, 410 n.8 (5th Cir. 1982) (en banc)).

A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations contained in this Report within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy of the Report—or the party's waiver of the right to do so—shall bar that party from *de novo* review by the District Court of the proposed findings and recommendations and, except upon grounds of plain error, shall bar the party from appellate review of proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the District Court to which no objections were filed. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 150-53 (1985); *Douglass v. United Services Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Report and Recommendation to all parties.

Signed on December 2, 2019, at Laredo, Texas.


DIANA SONG QUIROGA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE